

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ISSUE A PATENT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1218) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue to the Landusky School District, without consideration, a patent for the surface and mineral estates of certain lots, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1218

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue to the Landusky School District, without consideration, a patent for the surface and mineral estates of approximately 2.06 acres of land as follows: T.25 N, R.24 E, Montana Prime Meridian, section 27 block 2, school reserve, and section 27, block 3, lot 13.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1218, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue to the Landusky School District in the State of Montana a patent for the surface and mineral estates of certain lots, totaling 2.06 acres.

Landusky is a small agricultural community in north central Montana. An oversight in the original transfer of land from the Bureau of Land Management did not convey the surface and mineral estates on the two lots that the Landusky Elementary School has now occupied for a lengthy period of time. This legislation corrects that oversight.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1218 was introduced on June 14, 1999, by Senator BURNS. A legislative hearing was held where the assistant director of the Bureau of Land Management testified on behalf of the administration in support of the bill with certain amendments.

Today, we take up a bill fully supported by the administration and the other body. The estimated fair market value of the parcels is only \$30,300. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman from Alaska has quite properly explained the legislation. The administration supports this bill, and we have no objections to it.

S. 1218 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey, without consideration, the surface and subsurface mineral estates of about two acres of federal land to the Landusky School District, located in Montana.

According to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the school district currently operates and maintains an elementary school and auxiliary school buildings on the land and bears full financial responsibility for the property. The land currently generates no federal receipts, and BLM does not expect the land to generate any significant receipts over the next 10 years.

The administration supports S. 1218. We have no objection to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1218.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LAND AROUND THE CASCADE RESERVOIR

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1778) to provide for equal exchanges of land around the Cascade Reservoir.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1778

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXCHANGES OF LAND EXCESS TO CASCADE RESERVOIR RECLAMATION PROJECT.

Section 5 of Public Law 86-92 (73 Stat. 219) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) LAND EXCHANGES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may exchange land of either class described in subsection (a) for non-Federal land of not less than approximately equal value, as determined by an appraisal carried out in accordance with—

“(A) the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.); and

“(B) the publication entitled ‘Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions’, as amended by the Interagency Land Acquisition Conference in consultation with the Department of Justice.

“(2) EQUALIZATION.—If the land exchanged under paragraph (1) is not of equal value, the values shall be equalized by the payment of funds by the Secretary or the grantor, as appropriate, in an amount equal to the amount by which the values of the land differ.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1778 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate land exchanges among willing sellers and willing buyers at Cascade Reservoir in Idaho. Several agricultural easements were reserved within 300 feet of the reservoir at the time the Bureau of Reclamation acquired lands for the reservoir. Now the easement holders and reclamation would like to exchange these easements for other Federal lands in the area. The exchanges would help the parties improve and maintain water quality in the reservoir. All parties have agreed to the exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an “aye” vote on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the gentleman points out, this allows for land exchange around the Cascade Reservoir north of Boise, Idaho. We have no objections to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1778.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONVEYING CERTAIN LAND IN WYOMING

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 610) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in Washakie County and Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the Westside Irrigation District, Wyoming, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 610

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On completion of an environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this Act as the

"Secretary"), shall convey to the Westside Irrigation District, Wyoming (referred to in this Act as "Westside"), all right, title, and interest (excluding the mineral interest) of the United States in and to such portions of the Federal land in Big Horn County and Washakie County, Wyoming, described in subsection (c), as the district enters into an agreement with the Secretary to purchase.

(b) PRICE.—The price of the land conveyed under subsection (a) shall be equal to the appraised value of the land, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) LAND DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 16,500 acres of land in Big Horn County and Washakie County, Wyoming, as depicted on the map entitled "Westside Project" and dated May 9, 2000.

(2) ADJUSTMENT.—On agreement of the Secretary and Westside, acreage may be added to or subtracted from the land to be conveyed as necessary to satisfy any mitigation requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(d) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Proceeds of the sale of land under subsection (a) shall be deposited in a special account in the Treasury of the United States and shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior, without further Act of appropriation, for the acquisition of land and interests in land in the Worland District of the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Wyoming that will benefit public recreation, public access, fish and wildlife habitat, or cultural resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 610, a bill to direct the conveyance of certain BLM lands to the Westside Irrigation District of Wyoming.

Mr. Speaker, S. 610 directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey roughly 37,000 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in Washakie County and Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the Westside Irrigation District.

In turn, Westside Irrigation District will irrigate these lands and sell them as farmland parcels. Proceeds raised from the land sales will be given to the Secretary of the Interior for the acquisition of the land in the Worland District of the Bureau of Land Management, for the purpose of benefiting public recreation, increasing public access, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, and improving cultural resources.

In recent years, expanded residential development in Washakie and Big Horn Counties has resulted in key loss to the economy: farmland. This legislation will afford communities an opportunity to retain their economic vitality, while protecting cultural and natural resources and the environment.

I would personally like to congratulate everyone who worked so diligently

on this measure. I believe it is a job well done between the Federal agencies of the State and individual landholders. I ask my colleagues to support S. 610.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the gentleman has explained, this is an exchange of land or the direct sale of land in Wyoming, and while the administration is concerned that not all of the lands have been identified, we have no objections to the bill at this time, and we urge its passage.

S. 610 (Enzi) is a Senate passed measure that directs the sale of 16,500 acres of public land in Wyoming to the Westside Irrigation District. Mineral estate would remain with the United States.

District required to pay fair market value for the lands.

Prior to any sale there has to be completed an environmental analysis under NEPA.

Bill allows the Secretary and the District to add or subtract lands if necessary to satisfy the mitigation requirements of the NEPA analysis.

Administration had raised a number of concerns with the bill as introduced. While the bill was amended in the Senate to address some of these concerns, the Administration still does not support passage.

Administration concerned that they are required to sell lands that had not been identified for disposal. The lands contain significant paleontological resources and provide important wildlife habitat.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 610.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXCHANGING CERTAIN LANDS IN WYOMING

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1030) to provide that the conveyance by the Bureau of Land Management of the surface estate to certain land in the State of Wyoming in exchange for certain private land will not result in the removal of the land from operation of the mining laws.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1030

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. 60 BAR LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 2201.1-2(d) and 2091.3-2(c) of title 43 Code of Federal Regula-

tions, shall not apply in the case of the conveyance by the Secretary of the Interior of the land described in subsection (b) in exchange for approximately 9,480 acres of land in Campbell County, Wyoming, pursuant to the terms of the Cow Creek/60 Bar land exchange, WYW-143315.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land described in this subsection comprises the following land in Campbell and Johnson Counties, Wyoming:

(1) Approximately 2,960 acres of land in the tract known as the "Bill Barlow Ranch";

(2) Approximately 2,315 acres of land in the tract known as the "T-Chair Ranch";

(3) Approximately 3,948 acres of land in the tract known as the "Bob Christensen Ranch";

(4) Approximately 11,609 acres of land in the tract known as the "John Christensen Ranch".

(c) SEGREGATION FROM ENTRY.—Land acquired by the United States in the exchange under subsection (a) shall be segregated from entry under the mining laws until appropriate land use planning is completed for the land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1030, a land exchange bill introduced by Senator ENZI of Wyoming.

This bill exchanges 9,480 acres of private land for approximately 20,000 acres of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is an equal-value exchange. Currently, over 17,000 acres of the public land identified for exchange are completely inaccessible to the public because of surrounding private lands. After the exchange, the resulting block of public land will consist of over 18,660 acres, accessible from a paved highway and located very close to Gillette, Wyoming. The land which will be acquired by the BLM is scenic, recreational land, containing timber, rugged topography, and excellent wildlife habitat.

I would note this land exchange involves the transfer of surface interests only; no mineral interests are involved in the exchange. The BLM will reserve all minerals. The amendment adopted by the Senate at the urging of the administration makes clear that while a land-use plan amendment is prepared for the new Federal surface estate to be acquired, the mineral estate beneath it is segregated from the operation of the mining law.

Passage of this legislation will permit the land exchange to go forward. As a result, it will be a lasting benefit to the citizens of Wyoming and the Federal Government. I urge my colleagues to support S. 1030.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.